below poverty line arrived at by the Planning Commission for the year 1993-94 adopting the methodology of EXPERT GROUP' on "Estimation & Proportion and Number of Poor" constituted by the Planning Commission under the Chairmanship of late Prof. Lakdawala. As per the Expert Group methodology, the number and percentage of Below Poverty Line population works out to 32.03 crores and 35.57 per cent respectively as against 14.98 crores and 16.82% worked out as per the earlier official methodology.

Distribution of Ration under New PDS

1276. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether distribution of ration under new PDS scheme for the persons living below the poverty line has been implemented in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the names of the States where it has yet to start;

(c) the reasons therefor;

(d) whether it is a fact that the per unit wheat and rice to the present card holders has been reduced in Delhi;

(e) if so, the details thereof; and

(f) the reasons for the reduction of ration?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The New PDS Scheme, *viz,* the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) envisaging, provision of ten kg. of foodgrains per family per month to population below poverty line at specially subsidised prices has been implemented in all States and UTs except Punjab, Delhi, Goa and Lakshadweep.

(c) Government of Punjab, Delhi, Goa and UT of Lakshadweep are making necessary preparations including identification of families below poverty line and issue of special cards to them for Implementing the Targeted PDS.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) and (f) Based on the average annual lifting of last 10 years the allocation of Delhi has been reduced from 65000 MT to 40400 MT in case of wheat and from 20000 MT to 12890 MT in case of rice w.e.f. June, 1997. Government of NCT of Delhi have reported that they have reduced the entitlement from 20 kg. to 5 kg. of wheat per adult per month and 5 kg. to 2 kg. of rice per adult per month, while in case of jhuggi ration cards (JRCs) the entitlement of card holders is 10 kg. of wheat and 2 kg. of rice per adult per month.

Wheat Imported from Argentina found to be of Inferior Quality

1277. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Wheat imported by the FCI from Argentina has been found to be of inferior quality;

(b) if so, the details thereof stating the value of wheat involved; and

(c) the action taken by Government in terms of the contract?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Wheat imported from Argentina conforms to be quality parameters under the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act and the phytosanitary norms and is fit for human consumption. However, in one of the Argentinian wheat consignments valued at

approximately Rs. 28.56 crores the extent of damaged grain was found to be in excess of the contractual specifications.

(c) The State Trading Corporation of India has been asked to take up the matter with the suppliers in terms of the contract. A compensation to the extent of US $ 2.98 PMT for excess damaged grain contents has been obtained by STC from the foreign suppliers.

Procurement and stocks of Wheat

1278. SHRI SOM PAL: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the figures of procurement and stocks of wheat during the past five years;

(b) whether during the current year there has been a shortfall in the procurement of wheat;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the stocks of wheat held by Government presently are adequate to serve the Public Distribution System?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI RAGHUVANSH PRASAD SINGH): (a) Statements showing the procurement and stocks of wheat during the last five years are given at Statement I & II respectively (see below)

(b) and (c) A quantity of 92.63 lakh tonnes of wheat has been procured during the current Rabi Marketing Season (1997-98) upto 21.7.97 as against 81.83 lakh tonnes of wheat procured during the corresponding period of the previous season.

(d) Yes Sir.

Statement-I

Procurement of Wheat since 1993-94 Marketing Season (April-March)

(In Thousand Tonnes)

STATE/UT	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97	1997-98 (21.7.97)
Bihar	—	Neg.	Neg.	—	—
Gujarat	Neg.	—	1	—	—
Haryana	3454	3047	3102	2060	2263
Himachal Pradesh	1	Neg.	—	—	—
Jammu & Kashmir	—	—	—	—	—
Madhya Pradesh	242	66	169	5	103
Punjab	6494	7285	7299	5628	5955
Rajasthan	496	65	454	229	320
Uttar Pradesh	2128	1406	1302	261	620
Chandigarh	Neg.	—	—	—	2
Delhi	20	—	Neg.	—	Neg.
AH India Total:	12835	11869	12327	8183	9263

Neg. : Below 500 tonnes.